

Amendments to the Specification:

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Please replace paragraph [0025] with the following amended paragraph:

[0025] [[/]] Other objects, advantages and novel features of the present invention will become apparent from the following detailed description of the invention when considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

Please replace paragraph [0027] with the following amended paragraph:

[0027] The Figure shows a part of a vehicle interior with a vehicle seat 1, comprising a seat part 2, a back rest 3 and a head support part 4. An occupant 5 is shown on the vehicle seat 1, with a dashboard mount 6 in front of the occupant. A first occupant detection device 11 is arranged in the seat part 2 of the vehicle seat 1. A first electrode 10 is integrated in this first occupant detection device 11 and is connected to an evaluation device 13 by means of an electrical conductor 12. A second electrode 15 arranged in the foot well is likewise connected to the evaluation device 13 by means of an electrical conductor. The two electrodes and the signal evaluation device 13 are components of a second occupant detection device, which produces an electrical field between the electrodes. The interaction between an occupant 5 and the electrical field is detected by means of the evaluation device 13, and this is used

to determine a variable which characterizes the occupant 5, for example his or her approximate body size. Together with the result from a weight determination process, which is carried out, for example, by means of the first occupant determination device 11, the occupant can be classified for initiation of restraint systems. In particular, the occupant can be associated with one of the occupant classes small child, child, youth, small adult and large adult.

Please replace paragraph [0029] with the following amended paragraph:

[0029] The second electrode 15 is advantageously arranged in or directly underneath a floor covering in the foot well. The first electrode and the second occupant detection device may alternatively also be arranged in the back rest 2, or in some other part of the vehicle seat 1. As noted previously, the second electrode 15 may be part of a third occupant detection device 16, such as a pressure or weight sensitive mat.